

experiment will be allowed to resume for an additional 4 days. If the observed effects are noted in the next four-day period, the committee will consider the new data and will again reach a conclusion on the impact to individual harbor porpoise or on the stock. The committee may either recommend stopping the experiment permanently or for a 2- to 3-day period as before.

If the committee concludes that there is no likelihood that harbor porpoise will be injured, the experiment will be allowed to continue for 4 more days, with a new collection of sightings data. If abundance is still significantly below baseline with a confidence level of 99 percent, the committee will again review the data as before. This data collection, analysis and possible review by the committee will continue throughout the experiment.

Mitigation Measures Established for Killer Whales

The applicant will monitor killer whale behavior in the area of the experiment using the Speiden Island shore station, by boat and by hydrophone. Monitoring, which will begin approximately 25 days prior to the start of the experiment, will include the travel behavior of the killer whales as they approach the area of the experiment. Using both base-line and historical data, a measure of the probability that a given pod of killer whales will travel through the area will be made.

After the experiment has run for several days, if the applicant determines that the probability of any given pod of killer whales passing Turn Point on Stuart Island drops to zero for four approaches to the 80 percent turn-around point (the location where 80 percent of the time killer whale pods reverse direction), the scientific committee will review the data. The committee will review the collected travel and behavioral data and information from other locations to determine if there is a likelihood that killer whales will be injured by the change in behavior caused by the sound sources. If they determine that injury is likely, the sources will be turned off whenever killer whales are observed to approach and remain within 1 km of the study area's zone of responsiveness for killer whales.

If the committee determines that there is no likelihood of injury to killer whales, the experiment will be allowed to continue for four additional approaches to the study area. A probability of zero for these approaches will again trigger the review described above.

Emergency Shut-off Mitigation Measure

If observations are made that (1) one or more marine mammals are attempting to beach themselves when the sound sources are operating; and/or (2) either a marine mammal listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or a marine mammal for which an incidental harassment authorization has not been issued, approaches the sources, the sound sources will be immediately shut off. The protocol for this mitigation measure is described in detail in the application and need not be repeated here.

Dead Marine Mammals

Upon notification by a local stranding network that a marine mammal has been found dead within the waters of the San Juan Archipelago, the committee will investigate the stranding to determine whether a reasonable chance exists that the experiment caused the animal's death. If the committee determines that there is a reasonable chance that the death was due to the sound sources, the experiment will be stopped until completion of the necropsy. The necropsy results will be reviewed by the scientific oversight committee. If that committee determines that the death was likely due to the sound sources, the experiment will be turned off and will not resume until the sound sources are altered in some way to eliminate the potential for future deaths. In addition, because a section 101(a)(5)(D) authorization, if issued, does not authorize taking by death, consultation with NMFS will be necessary before restarting the experiment.

Dated: April 3, 1996.
Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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Modernization Transition Committee (MTC); Notice of Public Meeting

TIME AND DATE: April 24, 1996 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: This meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 700 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton, MA.

STATUS: This meeting will be open to the public. On April 24, 1996, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. will be set aside for oral comments or questions from the public. Approximately 50 seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis for the public. On April 25 the MTC will be touring the Taunton WFO and RFC from 8:30-11:00 a.m.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: This meeting will cover: Consultation on 42 final Consolidation Certifications, a briefing on Aviation Service Standards, and an update on Automation Criteria.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mr. Nicholas Scheller, National Weather Service, Modernization Staff, 1325 East-West Highway, SSMC2, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Telephone: (301) 713-0454.

Dated: April 3, 1996.
Nicholas R. Scheller,
Manager, National Implementation Staff.
[FR Doc. 96-8765 Filed 4-8-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology announces the proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, Continuous Acquisition and Life-Cycle Support (CALS), ATTN: Roland Henderson, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1609, Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to